The Holy Spirit

His Work and Sigificance as revealed in the Book of Revelation

Bakht Singh

HEBRON
Book Room
Golconda Cross Roads,
HYDERABAD - 500 020.

Contents

		Page No.s
1.	A summary of the Book of Revelation	2
2.	The seven covenants	50
3.	The seven names of the Holy Spirit	72
4.	The sevenfold inward working of the Holy Spirit	95
5.	The sevenfold outward working of the Holy Spirit	114
6.	The sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ	134
7.	The seven spiritual experiences of the overcomers	155
8.	Eight new things	178

1. SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The message of the book of Revelation is for the last days, and a special blessing is promised to those who hear and keep the words of this book, as we read in Revelation 22, 22:7 ...blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of... this book." This book is intended for those who want to overcome and inherit all things. It is given to teach us to overcome. It is given to reveal to us the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are seven divisions of this book each revealing an aspect of the glory of Christ.

Rev.1.	The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as our everlasting Priest.
Rev.2 and 3.	The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in His Church.
Rev.4 and 5.	The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the perfected heavenly Church.
Rev.6 to 19.	The glory of His judgments and ourselves as His co-workers co-operating with Him in His judgments.
Rev.20 : 1-6.	The glory of Christ's millennial reign.
Rev.20 : 7-15.	The glory of the Great White Throne judgment.
Rev.21 and 22.	The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in His coming New Creation.

The first chapter of the book of Revelation shows the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ as our everlasting High Priest. The apostle John was exiled in the island of Patmos. He was thinking of his brethren and children in Christ in the churches of Asia Minor, thinking of the period of spiritual decline that had set in; the 'Antichrists', as indicated in his epistles (Rev. 1:9-10).

2 Timothy 4: 16 shows that many had left the apostle Paul at that time, as he writes in 2 Timothy 4 : 10 —"Demas hath forsaken me." Many were scattered abroad and were losing their faith and many were deceived.

This book is a message for spiritual recovery. Every loss can be recovered if we obey the divine laws. We read that John heard behind him a great voice, and he turned to see the voice that spoke to him. John was looking in the wrong direction (Rev. 1:10-12). We too get discouraged because we look in the wrong direction. Peter began to sink when he looked at the waves (Matt. 14 : 29-31). He was all right when his eyes were on the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever the circumstances, our eyes must be on the Lord Jesus Christ. We must present Him, preach Him, and keep our eyes on Him.

In Rev. 1:20 we see what kind of Church the Lord Jesus Christ is building. Note the seven golden candlesticks. Gold speaks of the divine life. In Rev. 21 : 18 we read the wonderful description of the city of pure gold. The Lord is not building fellowships, or denominations or sects. He is building His Church. Unless life flows fully and freely His Church cannot be built.

Rev. 1 : 13 shows Christ as the everlasting High Priest. Hebrews 7 : 21-28 describes Him as undefiled, separate from sinners, higher than the heavens: Who ever liveth to make intercession for us. A believer may have fallen, but there is hope for him as long as he does not blaspheme the Word of God or the precious blood. In 1 John 2:1 Christ is called our advocate. With Him the believer is safe by His promises in Psalm 37 : 24- "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down" to which Micah 7:8 adds, "...when I fall I shall arise."

2 Cor. 4 : 9 tells us, we may be cast down but we shall not be destroyed. We may fall, for we are human beings and make many mistakes, but the Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest.

To enjoy the work of the High Priest in our hearts, we must come for fellowship in meetings for prayer and ministry of the Word of God. One meeting on Sunday is not enough. There is great loss to those who stay alone and come for fellowship only on Sunday. Lone believers are exposed to many temptations.

Seven Features of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. His head and hair white like wool:

His head and hair are wonderfully described in Rev. 1:14. His hair was white like wool. White hair of the Lord speaks of everlasting wisdom, maturity and experience (Dan. 7:9). Many people do not like grey hair; they pull them out whenever they appear ! However, human wisdom can make mistakes, and it is only by divine wisdom that we can understand the mysteries of God. James 1:5 tells us that if we lack wisdom we must ask of God, for the true wisdom is peaceable and easy to be intreated. Prov. 8:1-5; 25-30

describes true, spiritual heavenly wisdom. Prov. 9:1 speaks of the seven pillars of heavenly wisdom.

James 3:17 tells us that the wisdom given by God is first pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, full of mercy, good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. How much we need that wisdom! Take your Bible, kneel down and pray: "Lord, teach me Thyself the meaning of this chapter".

2. His eyes like a flame of fire:

"...the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth" (2 Chron. 16:9). Psalm 32 : 8 gives the promise : "I will guide thee with mine eye", or as the margin gives it "Mine eye is upon thee". When we ask, "What about this? And what about that?" The Lord says : "I know, I can see". In John 1:46-48, Jesus says, "You are Nathaniel; I know you." Nathaniel thinks: "How does the Lord Jesus Christ know me?" Zacchaeus in Luke 19 : 5 is another example. The Lord knew who he was and where he was . He knows all, He allows circumstances to purify us. We need suffering to keep us gentle and pure, and fire is necessary for purifying.

3. His feet like fine brass:

In John 3:14 we read of the brass serpent. The story is given in Num. 21:9. The dying Israelite, bitten by the fiery serpent, looked on the serpent of brass and lived, but the serpent had no power in itself. In 2 Kings 18:4, we read how the people began to worship the serpent, so God caused it to be destroyed. Brass stands for judgment. The altar was of brass. The Lord's feet were like brass. In Gen. 3:15 the prophecy is given that the serpent's head would be crushed and in Romans 16 : 20 the promise is given that the God of peace would soon bruise Satan under the feet of God's people.

The Devil was defeated by Christ's death on the Cross, and not by miracles. Mohammedans believe in the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, that He was crucified and that He will come back again, but not that He died and rose again.

I Cor. 1 : 18 affirms that God's power lies in the Cross of Christ and not in miracles. We are to make our boast in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, Gal. 6:14; and to defeat the Devil we must appropriate for ourselves our oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15 : 3-4).

4. His voice like the sound of many waters:

Rev. 1 : 15; 19:6. Isaiah 30:21says:"thine ears shall hear a word behind thee." In 1 Kings 19:12-18 God spoke both in a still small voice, and also in a thundering voice.

5. His hands held seven stars:

The Lord holds the churches in His hands; He does not always send angels to speak to His servants. The Lord may send angels for our protection as we see in Josh. 5:13-15. In Gen. 32:1, the angels of God met Jacob, but they are not always seen. Sometimes the Lord permits us to go through trials, but always and in all circumstances we are held by His hands.

6. Out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:

In Hebrews 4:12 the Word of God is compared to a sharp twoedged sword and it is by God's Word that we defeat the devil (Eph. 6:17), even as in Matt. 4:4,7,10, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself defeated the devil by the Word of God.

7. Lastly, His countenance was as the sun shineth in its strength:

In Mal. 4:2 the Sun of righteousness is used as a description of the Lord. Every germ is killed by sunshine, so keep yourself in the sunshine of the Lord Jesus to be free from spiritual germs of doubt, fear and suspicion. The Lord gave John the apostle a new vision of Himself. Present Christ, not only His teaching, but also His heavenly glory and beauty. Rev. 19:16 reveals Him as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Revelation chapter 2:

The book of Revelation is a special message for the end days and a special blessing is promised to those who hear and keep "the words of this prophecy" Rev. 22:7. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things" Rev 21:7, and this book teaches us how to overcome. In this chapter the Lord Jesus is seen in the midst of the churches (Matt. 16:18).

In chapters 2 and 3 we see how the Lord Jesus Christ defeats the Devil. The Devil comes in four ways.

1. 1 Pet. 5:8, as a roaring lion.

2. Acts 20:29, as a grievous wolf, bringing wrong teaching into the churches, and strife among God's people.

3. 2 Cor. 11:14, as an angel of light.

4. Isa. 59:19, as a flood.

The message of this chapter can be divided into seven parts, and each part represents a period of history. There are

in all seven messages and each message again has seven parts. Seven titles are given to the Lord Jesus Christ. By this He makes Himself known to the seven churches, and in each church or age it was the knowledge of Him in the role by which He introduced Himself, which enabled the believers to overcome.

First Period (Rev. 2:1-7)

The first period is described or pictured by the Church at Ephesus. In Rev. 2:1, speaking to the angel of the church at Ephesus, Christ introduces Himself as the **One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand.** When we are exposed to danger He commands His angels to take care of us. We should never look at circumstances, for with every circumstance will come the necessary help. He has made the angels to be ministering spirits to those who are the heirs of salvation (Heb.1:14).

Acts 12:7, angels do not come all the way with us. The angel took Peter only a short way. God knew Peter would forget and leave behind his sandals and old garment, so the angel reminded him to take them. Then the angel left him. Do not forget that God has His angels watching over His people.

In Quetta (India) 58,000 people were killed in eighteen seconds by an earthquake. Only one believer was killed, though 92 percent of the population was destroyed.

The Lord also introduced Himself to this church as **the One Who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.**

Many were imprisoned and scattered through persecution, Acts 12:1-2, and John must have questioned, "What will be the future of the Church?" The Lord answered, "Do not look at outward conditions, I am in the midst of the churches. I am building my Church and for this I do not depend on buildings and property."

The gold of the candlesticks speaks of divine life. Where the churches are gathered with divine life, under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ they are built up. In His Message Christ first commends the church, "I know thy works, zeal and labour, how you cannot tolerate wrong teaching, how you are full of activity, visiting and preaching, bearing much and not fainting."

Then He makes a serious **charge** against the church: "Thou hast left thy first love. I cannot use you. You have lost your love for the Lord." Without love for the Lord He cannot use us. We may be full of activity, but with no love in our hearts, we are useless. Let us pray: "Lord, give me love for the people in their blindness," for unless we have love for the people the Lord cannot work. We may be full of knowledge, but cold and without love. We have no right to condemn the Ephesian church, for what was true of them is true of us also. We must show love.

As far as we understand the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, they made a difference, or rather drew a line between the preacher and the people, and in doing so tended to glorify the preacher.

The **reward** promised to this church is that to him that overcometh, will Christ give to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7). In Genesis 2:9 the tree of life was in the

midst of the garden, and by eating of the tree of life a man could have enjoyed all things and eternal life. Now, by overcoming, we shall be able to enjoy all the things that God has for us. Even now the Bridegroom is preparing the heavenly feast and those who overcome will take part in that feast and eat of the tree of life (Matt. 26:29). Our full enjoyment of the things of eternity is dependent on our eating of the tree of life. If our hearts are full of love we will enjoy all of God's Word as we learn to overcome.

Historically the church of Ephesus was the apostolic period from the beginning of church history to 90 A.D.

As we have seen, Christ spoke of Himself to this church as the One Who walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks, holding the seven stars in His right hand. He is the Centre and supreme authority in His Church.

The church's danger was that she had left her first love. The **warning** given to her was to remember and repent. The remedy for coldness and lack of fruit is to return to our first love for Christ.

The reader is **exhorted:** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches".

The **reward** of faithfulness is to eat of the tree of life.

Let us pray : "Lord, keep me loving and tender". No one can say : I will never fall (Luke 22:31-32). We must learn to pray for those who fall, going to them personally, and praying with them.

In Galatians 2:11-12 we read how Peter's heart became cold, and he did not have the same love for all people. We

must learn to love our enemies, even those that hate us and those that fall. We must be sure that our hearts are kind and tender, for our teaching is of no value if there is no love in our hearts and if we do not know how to share the burdens of others (Gal.6:2).

Second Period (Rev. 2:8-11)

The second period is that of the church at Smyrna, a church that was active between the years 90 A.D. to 325 A.D. The name indicates suffering and the word myrrh comes from the same root. From John 19:39 we see that myrrh is used to anoint dead bodies, but first it has to be ground to powder. In the same way we are called to suffer that we should give forth a sweet fragrance. Some flowers give forth their sweetest fragrance on the darkest night. It is true that under suffering we have the greatest burden for prayer. Prosperity generally brings barrenness among believers. The trouble in this country and in many parts of the West, is that there is too much prosperity. In the period when this letter was written, the believers had lost their property, and were gathered in caves. "I am the living Christ," announced the Lord to such a church in Rev. 2:8. Persecution does not kill the Church. The believers may be poor, but they are rich spiritually under persecution. There were those who wanted to deceive the believers and testing was allowed to make them strong. "...ye shall have tribulation ten days," the Lord told them, "be thou faithful unto death." The number 10 stands for testing, and those who stood the test were to receive **a crown of life** (James 1:12).

In 2 Timothy 4:8 it is called the **crown of righteousness** and is promised to all who love Christ's appearing. All who love His appearing and overcome every temptation, receive the crown of life.

The apostle Paul himself endured much suffering and testing. but his attitude was that of the overcomer, knowing that he would not be "hurt of the second death". There are forty afflictions mentioned in 2 Cor. 6:4-10, 11:24-29 yet the apostle was always rejoicing. He never murmured, but rather counted it a privilege to suffer: 'I have learned' he said, 'in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content,' Phil. 4:11. Would to God we all had that spirit of contentment.

In Heb. 13:5a we are told that our conversation must be without covetousness. We are warned to be free from the love of money and material possessions, and to be content with such things as we have. Some people are never content. They always want new furniture, a new car, or something else new. We must be thankful, for then only can we grow spiritually.

The promise to the second church (Rev. 2:11) is that the overcomer shall not be hurt of the second death. Rev. 20:6 is a further promise concerning the same. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power."

Who are these overcomers? From Rev. 20:4 we gather that they are all believers. Many will be deceived by the Antichrist and many will bow to worship the beast or his image or will wear his mark on their hand or forehead. Those who overcome will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years. But those who wear the mark of the beast or take the part of Antichrist cannot be overcomers (Rev.13:4). They will be overcome of the second death, and have no part in the millennial reign.

The Lord comes to this church as "the First and the Last", the One Who "was dead and is alive." He Himself had been through death, so why should they fear death when He was with them?

Third Period (Rev. 2:12-17)

The third period is that of the church of Pergamos. Christ presents Himself as "he which hath the sharp sword with two edges".

He says, "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is" (v. 13). King Constantine was the head of the church instead of the Lord Jesus Christ.

King Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catharine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. So he broke away from the Roman Catholic church and became head of the Church of England. But Christ cannot reign in a church where a man claims headship.

The church is warned not to eat things sacrificed to idols. In Numbers 23:4-11 we read how Balaam blessed the children of Israel instead of cursing them. He had not wished to do this, but God had compelled his mouth to bless them. Later, in Numbers 25:1, Balaam gave wrong advice. He cleverly seduced some of Israel to make mixed marriages with the result that the people began to worship idols and Israel was joined to Baalpeor (Num. 31:16). We might call the doctrine of Balaam, the doctrine of mixed marriages, that is , of believers marrying unbelievers. In 2 Cor. 6:14-18 we read why relationship with unbelievers is harmful. It is a false argument to say, "I am friends with him so that I can win him." That is a strong weapon of the devil to bring about

spiritual blindness. How can a believer and an unbeliever agree in marriage or in business? Amos 3:3 gives the answer: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

This church also had among its members those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes (Rev. 2:15). The people began to idolize a preacher who could draw crowds, which God hated. It is the doctrine of man-appointed headship in the church of God. Even Anglicans worship the Bishop and bow down to him. Because of this, long robes were brought in, and people worship the priest, and kiss his feet. However, God says in Rev. 2:16 that He would fight with the sword of His mouth against such things. That sword is the Word of God, and God's Word should be honoured. Only to the Lord Jesus Christ should we bow down and kneel in prayer. In Phil. 2:10 we read that every knee should bow to Him, and in Ephesians 3:14 the apostle says, "I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the early church it was the custom to kneel when praying, for kneeling is a sign of worship. We see this in Acts 20:36 when the apostle kneeled down and prayed with the elders of the church of Ephesus and again in Acts 21:5 at Tyre the apostle kneeled down on the shore, with men, women and children and prayed. In Acts 7:60 Stephen kneeled down and prayed, even though he was being stoned. In Acts 9:40 Peter kneeled down and prayed by the body of Tabitha. Believers now sit down and pray, but this brings darkness. Obey the Word of God in your private life, family life, and church life. There is often so much fun going on in the meetings of believers, especially amongst the young. But we must rebuke them and teach the young how they must honour God. The believers must be taught to keep their ears sensitive to God's Word.

In every message there is a reward. Here the promised reward is **hidden manna**, the spiritual food that we require for new life (Rev. 2:17). In 1 Kings 19:5-8 the angel had prepared a cake and brought water, and this food gave strength to the prophet to walk day and night for forty days without stopping. It was not ordinary food. Food which is prepared by angels has extra strength; it is heavenly, not earthly. So God gives His people special strength if they are tempted, persecuted and in tribulation. As we wait upon our knees and read God's Word we get that extra strength. We will be given hidden manna to go anywhere in God's universe. Men cannot stay on the moon but we will be able to go anywhere if God sends us.

There is also **white stone promised** to the overcomer. In Numbers 27:21 we read of the Urim by which the high priest could find God's will. With the help of the white stone we too will be able to find God's will. As we read God's Word and pray, God gives a verse which shows His will. When God gives a white stone, He gives with it ability to answer all questions.

Fourth Period (Rev. 2:18-29)

The fourth period of church history is that of the church at **Thyatira.**

That was a period when men tried counterfeits, holy water and other devices, in order to obtain salvation. Christ introduces Himself as the Son of God Who hath "His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass." He says: "Look at my eyes!" By coming into His presence, I can look into the fire of His eyes. Dare I do so? His feet were like

brass. Brass speaks of judgment. In John 3:14 the serpent of brass is referred to. The story is in Numbers 21:4-9. Judgment in the shape of fiery serpents was sent among the people for their rebellion. The serpent or Satan causes trouble in the midst of the Church and unless the sin he causes is judged, we cannot conquer the devil himself.

In Genesis 3:15 the promise is given that Christ would bruise the head of the serpent, and that the serpent would bruise His heel. Before Pilate men cried: "Crucify him, Crucify him!" But the same bruised heel gave victory to man (1 Cor.1:18; 1 Cor. 2:2;Gal. 6:14).

In Rev. 2:19 Christ commended the church for her work and her love and faith and patience, but defilement was going on. "That woman Jezebel" was causing much trouble by her so-called prophecies, teaching immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. The Lord promises terrible judgments. But in Rev. 2:24 He speaks comfort to those who have not known the 'depths of Satan' and tells them to hold fast to that which God has revealed to them (Rev. 2:25). The things allowed in Thyatira can be compared to the dreadful practices of the Roman Catholic church especially in the Middle ages.

Do not allow bag-snatchers in your divine life, for, by this means the enemy can bring doubt and fear.

To the overcomers is given the promise that they will reign (Rev. 2:26). But all cannot reign. 1 Cor. 6:3 tells us that the saints shall judge angels. The promised reward is the Morning Star in Rev. 2: 28. Again the people of God are told to be sensitive to God's voice. The still small voice is heard only by living close to Him (1 Kings 19:12).

As we see the Lord Jesus Christ in His true greatness, we shall be enabled to overcome the evils of the last days. In chapters 2 and 3 we see unfolding the history of His Church down the ages. God's work will not stop, even though His servants pass away.

Revelation Chapter 3
Fifth Period (Rev. 3:1-6)

The fifth period is the period of **Sardis.** Historically it is the Reformation period, when, because of the evils practised in the Roman Catholic church, there was protest and a breaking away. They had a name of life but were dead, for they retained the robes, candles, several rituals, and prayer books of the Roman church. Unless the Holy Spirit has His way in our lives we too will be led away with many customs and traditions. In the eyes of God they were still dead for they retained the rituals, customs and traditions of the Roman system.

The Lord Jesus Christ introduces Himself as the One Who has the Seven Spirits of God (Rev. 3:1). These are also mentioned in Rev. 1:4 and 5:6.

In Zechariah 4:2 the seven lamps speak of the seven-fold work of the Holy Spirit. It is a complete work, and not just an experience. The lamps must be filled continually. When we are in need we must be filled again and again, Acts 13:9. We need to rightly understand the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. There are seven names of the Holy Spirit.

2. There are seven inward works of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

3. There are also seven outward works of the Holy Spirit and

4. There is a sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The seven names of the Holy Spirit.

1. Hebrews 9:14. **The Eternal Spirit** gives us a longing for eternity and eternal things.

2. Romans 1:4. **The Spirit of holiness** works in us to make us like Christ. Am I like Him? Is the Lord satisfied with my life?

3. John 14:16. **The Comforter**, makes us enjoy fully God's love; not some emotion, but the pure love of God (Romans 5:5), the love which passeth knowledge (Ephesians 3:19). God's will for us is that we should be filled with His fulness.

4. John 14:17. **The Spirit of Truth**, teaches us all things. (John 15:5) "Without me," He says, "ye can do nothing."

5. Galatians 4:6. **The Spirit of His Son** enables us to say boldly: 'My Father', as He Himself said: "my Father, and your Father" **(John 20:17).** The Spirit gives me a sense of claim that I can call Him my **Father.**

6. 2 Timothy 1:7. **The Spirit of power, love and a sound mind.** We must use the whole Bible, and this will save us from unsound teachings.

7. 1 John 2:27. **The anointing**. Through the Spirit we will go on learning throughout our life. We cannot learn everything in one day, but as we are ready to receive we shall be taught by the anointing, Matt. 13:17.

The sevenfold inward workings of the Holy Spirit. Like the roots of a tree these are not seen.

1. **Eph. 1:13.** We are **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, showing that we are the Lord's property.

2. **1 Cor. 12:13**. We are **baptised** by one Spirit and joined to the Lord as His body.

3. **Eph. 1:14.** The Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, the deposit of the heavenly inheritance, 1 Peter 1:4, reserved in heaven for us. We have a share there. All things belong to me in Christ.

4. **Eph. 1:17.** He is the Spirit of **wisdom and revelation.** In Matt. 16:22 Peter began to rebuke the Lord Jesus Christ because he did not understand. But the Lord took him up into a high mountain, (Matt. 17:1) to show him those things he could not understand.

5. **Eph. 3:16.** He is also the **strengthening** Spirit.

6. **1 Peter 1:2.** He is the **sanctifying** Spirit. For obedience we require the sprinkling of the Blood.

7. **1 John 2:27.** He is the **teaching** Spirit.

We must be sure we are enjoying fully the work of the **Holy Spirit of God in our lives.**

The sevenfold outward workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Like the trunk of the tree and branches these can be seen.

1. Rom. 8:9 **The Indwelling Spirit**, The Holy Ghost makes us a fit dwelling place for Himself. He fills us with love, joy, peace and gentleness. We cannot become humble by ourselves. Our longing should be to be prepared by Him to be God's dwelling place.

2. Rom. 8:11 **The Quickening Spirit** quickens our mortal body; He gives us extra strength for the need of the day; helps us to do our jobs faithfully; and gives us strength to do gospel work.

3. Rom. 8:14 The **Guiding Spirit** teaches us to be led by Him and helps us to find God's will.

4. Rom. 8:15 **The Spirit of Adoption** brings us to maturity. It was a custom, that when a son came of age he was given authority to sign his father's documents, and given a **key** of the house. Many believers remain babes spiritually. They go to meetings only and come home. They sit in the same seat week after week, but cannot take any responsibility. Look around to see what you can do for God yourself, for you do not need anybody to teach you.

5. Rom. 8:16 **The Witnessing Spirit** teaches us that we have a share in the heavenly inheritance which must be claimed. He that overcometh shall inherit all things. The Holy Spirit is there to teach us and **help us to claim our share of the heavenly inheritance.**

6. Rom. 8:26 **The Teaching Spirit** will teach us how to pray. He will help us to pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14) and to know the mind of God.

7. Rom. 8:27 **The Interceding Spirit** intercedes for us. Some are going through trials and temptations, and as we pray, the Holy Spirit gives us a burden to pray for such even though we do not know why. Sometimes God has caused me to wake up in the night with burden to pray.

The sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit with reference to the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Luke 1:34, 35 The Lord Jesus was **conceived** by the Holy Spirit.

2. Matt. 3:16 The Spirit of God **came** upon Him after His baptism.

3. The Lord Jesus was **led by the Spirit** into the wilderness (Matt. 4:1). The Spirit prepared Him before the temptation. He will also prepare us for what lies ahead of us.

4. Isaiah 9:6 The Lord Jesus was **anointed** of the Holy Spirit, Isaiah 11:2. The Spirit of **wisdom** was given to Him **to equip Him** for the task for which He had come, Isa. 11:2-5. Thus He was able to speak with authority; Matt. 7:29; John 7:46; Luke 4:22, 32.

5. Isa. 42: 1-3 He bore everything very patiently and **was not discouraged**,because God's Spirit was upon Him.

6. Isa. 61:1-3 By the Holy Spirit He gave the Gospel patiently, and with love (Acts 10:38). What He spoke

was under
authority.

7. Rom.1:4 By the Spirit of holiness, and by the resurrection from the dead, He was **declared to be the Son of God.**

As we put all these things together, we can understand what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and we shall know whether we ourselves are filled with the Spirit. We cannot depend on some past experience.

The Seven Spirits (Rev. 3:1)

Many go by outward things, such as simple clothes, not eating meat, living in monastery, holy ashes and holy oil. But these things do not prove that we are filled with the Spirit. It is true that we can be filled, but we can only be filled as we understand the meaning of the Seven Spirits of God.

The Lord is not satisfied unless we come into His perfect will (v.2). We must do all things heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men, Col. 3:23.

We must prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God. And we must be sure that we are living in the perfect will of God, and not in the permissive will of God, Rom. 12 :2.

We must be free from all worldly associations, Rev. 3:4. The biggest danger to a believer is from worldly associations. Those who associate with the world, imitate the dress, haircuts, and conversation. We must be careful not to imitate the world. We are to hate even the garment spotted by the flesh (Jude 23). Fashions are designed to stir passions and to make

men slaves to sex, till they dress for sex and not only for fashion. If believers imitate the world, their hearts are full of defilement. Our beauty is holiness (v.5); 1 Chron. 16:29; Psalm 110:3. 1 Peter 3:2-5 tell us the secret of real beauty. The white raiment promised to the overcomer in v.5 speaks of heavenly beauty.

He has promised also that He will not blot the overcomer's name out of the book of life. This is a special promise for those who confess His Name boldly. If we confess Him boldly we receive a reward (Luke 12:4-9). Many believers are ashamed to speak about the Lord Jesus Christ, but by our bold testimony we are confessed as overcomers and are worthy to receive a reward.

Sixth Period (Rev. 3:7-13)

The sixth period, the period of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7) is the missionary period, when the Gospel began to be taken to the world. For 1000 years there had been no burden for others. There was no concern for the lost, and because of this Wesley was persecuted because he took the Gospel into the open–air. Here the Lord introduces Himself as the One Who shuts and no man can open, and what He opens no man can shut.

A young gypsy girl was once called to an artist's studio. In the studio there was a painting of the Crucifixion. The poor girl had never seen such a picture before, and enquired of the artist its meaning. As she listened to the story of Christ's love and sacrifice, she accepted His salvation and was born again. When dying she sent for the artist, to thank him for telling her of the death of Christ and for the joy and peace it had brought to her. The artist knew that he himself had not

accepted salvation of which he had told her. For days the thought was with him, till at last he also turned to Christ, and accepted His salvation. Then he painted another picture of the Crucifixion, and beneath it he wrote the words; "All this I did for thee; what hast thou done for Me?" Some years later a gay young Count visited the gallery where the picture was hung. He stood for hours before it watching the agony in the face of the Saviour, and reading the words. He went out a changed man, laid all his wealth at the feet of Christ and founded the Moravian Mission to tell the good news of this salvation to others.

Rev. 3:7 tells us how the Gospel was taken to other countries by bold witnessing. As we preach with authority, an open door is set before us which no man can shut. But to find this open door, we need to find out the will of God.

When I first began to work for the Lord I gave out tracts everywhere but nothing happened. Then I learned to find the will of God. Where doors are shut, do not try to open them. Find out where God wants you to go. Do not go by the weather! One day as I preached in the rain, souls were born again. Nominal Christians will ridicule, but later they will acknowledge that God is with you (v.9).

Rev. 3:10 tells us that the enemy will be very active in the time that is coming, but by perseverance and endurance we will overcome him (Matt. 24:13).

In v.11, the Lord announces that He has given us the breaking of bread week by week to prepare our hearts for His Second Coming. We see in 1 Cor. 11:26 that it is not a ceremony or custom, but to help us to be watchful and prayerful till He comes.

His promise to the overcomers in v.12 is fourfold. The overcomer is to be "a pillar in the temple of my God". A source of strength to other believers. He will bear the "name of the city of my God, and my new name and above all the name of my God". New name means that we have won God's approval. Abraham's name was changed after twenty-five years. Saul was called Paul, (Acts 13:2). It means that we can be trusted, that we are approved of God, and under full subjection, fully tried, tested and set apart in a more intimate relationship. We are given the name of the New Jerusalem, because, when we overcome, we understand our share in the New Jerusalem and can also understand hidden mysteries, (Gen.18:17; Deut. 29:29). Secret things are revealed and we are told what is going to happen in the future.

Seventh Period (Rev. 3:14-22)

This is the **Laodicean** period. The Lord introduces Himself as the beginning and the ending. He is the beginning of creation. He spoke and it was done immediately, and not over centuries. In v.15 He tells the church how they are in His sight lukewarm, indifferent, no hunger for the work of God, but only formality, the desire to be decent and respectable, to have many books, buildings and money. He tells them in v.18 to buy gold, i.e. to have a living faith. (1 Pet.1:7) to learn how to claim the Lord as our righteousness.

We have this thought in Col. 3:4, Christ is our life, otherwise we are naked before God. Others can see our nakedness, and it is only by claiming His life and righteousness that we are covered. He counsels them to use eye-salve. When there were no glasses people used eye - salve and spiritually when we cannot see clearly we need spiritual eye-salve. Our prayer should be, "Lord, touch my eyes". We

cannot understand these things by big books, and Hebrew and Greek, but only as the Lord opens our eyes (1 John 2:27).

The Lord chastens the one he loves (v.19), and we must be chastened if we are to be partakers of His holiness (Heb. 12:10).

When the Lord knocks, open the door immediately (Rev. 3: 20). Once after preaching five times in one day I went to bed very tired. Then I heard a knock, but when I went to the door no one was there. Again the knock came and the Lord said: "Get up, and pray". This happened to me for five nights. After the Sunday message I called the people to stay back, and said that any one with a testimony should speak out. A child of ten gave a testimony. Then another child of the same age gave a clear testimony. Then the teacher asked for prayer, and presently a great cry went up. People cried for mercy. I asked, "How many of you are not born again? We will not go home till all are born again". So we continued in prayer for seven hours till all were born again. The knock is for the believer, not for the unbeliever. When the Lord knocks, be sure to open it immediately.

The message of the Book of Revelation is centred in Rev.21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." The God of love is longing to give us all the things of the New Creation, but unless we overcome we will not be able to enjoy them. In this book we are taught how to overcome. In chapters 4 and 5 we see the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Heavenly Church. We are given a glimpse of our oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ, for, when we see Him, we shall be like Him. Engineers can show by drawing and by a model what a building will be like when it is complete. In the same way these chapters show

the completed Church in heaven. Rev. 4:2 reveals the glory of His throne. "...he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone" (v.3). These stones are clear with a transparency that burns. They speak of the purity and holiness of God.

The rainbow is a symbol of God's covenant-pure light divided into its seven colours Gen.9 :11-17. The first rainbow here was a token of God's Covenant with men. When we have longing to share the throne of God, as He promised in Rev. 3:21, we wonder how we can do so with so many human limitations. We shall share the throne not because of what we are but because of God's covenant (Psalm 89:34). He promises: "My covenant will I not break". Because God is God He must keep His promises. God cannot and will not lie. He is the covenant-keeping God (Num. 23:19). He makes a decree which shall not pass (Psalm 148:6). When He calls, He is faithful (1 Thess 5:24). The rainbow is the token of God's faithfulness. We must believe and claim His promises.

We had this experience in the beginning of the work when God showed us a large compound and gave us His promise in 1 Chron. 29:1 - "... the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God". The back portion of the house was in ruins, and not safe for habitation. We enquired if there was any possibility of the house becoming vacant, and were told: "Yes, but the landlord will not make any repairs!" The house was to be vacated on July 12th. We then saw the landlord and told him that the work was for God, he said at once, "I will repair the building. You can move in and no rent need be paid until the repairs are finished". After that time the money came in for the rent.

We must believe what God has said and hold to it. Once the Lord told me to get ready to go abroad and gave me Zech. 9:10. There were heavy bookings, and a long waiting list. Humanly speaking there was no chance. In my quiet time the Lord gave me Isa. 43:16, "I will make a way in the sea". When I walked into the booking office, the official said: "There is only one place for an Indian government servant. Are you a government servant?" I told him I was God's servant: "That will do" he said, and gave me passage. We must learn how to hold on to God's promises.

There are seven colours in the rainbow which stand for seven covenants :

As we believe in the seven covenants we can rise higher and higher spiritually. It is all of grace that God condescends to make a covenant with such as we are. We are not worthy of such favour (1 Cor. 15: 10). What He gives, He gives out of His unqualified grace. The men of God in the old Testament times reminded God of His promises. We also by claiming the promises of God can get strength to press on.

1. **God made a covenant with Adam in Gen. 3:15.** Satan thought he had the victory, but God promised that even though Eve was deceived, the woman's seed would crush Satan's head. In Christ I will conquer, for the Lord Jesus Christ is not, and cannot be defeated. I may fall, but the Lord Jesus Christ is victorious. I too can be victorious if I appropriate His victory. Micah 7:8, "when I fall, I shall arise". Psalm 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down". We can never conquer Satan by Bible knowledge, will-power, signs or miracles. We must claim the precious Blood and the victory of the Cross.

In Ephesians 1:16 to 22 we read of Christ's victory, and in chapter 2:1 it extends to us. Christ's victory is for us, as we appropriate the power of His resurrection, and claim that same victory.

Rom. 8:37 assures us that we are more than conquerors through Christ. Some long for knowledge and signs and miracles, but power comes only in and through the Cross, for the Cross is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18).

2. **God's second covenant was made with Noah.** (Gen. 9:9-11) God's mercies are so great (Isaiah 44:22) that we can safely tell men that though their sin is so great, they can come back to God and be forgiven. Even men of the worst type can be forgiven. Many feel that they have failed, so how can they be overcomers? We have only to claim His mercies (Psalm 89:1). As long as we do not blaspheme the precious Blood of Christ our sins can be forgiven.

3. **God's third covenant was with Abraham**-an everlasting covenant (Gen. 17:19). Abraham believed God would give him a son in his old age. At first he found difficulty in believing such an obvious impossibility, but afterwards believed. God said, "Walk uprightly. Throw away your stick". He believed and later had six more children (Gen. 25:1,2; Rom 4:17-21).

It is by faith that we overcome. God uses many means to give us strong faith. God appeared to Abraham in Genesis 12, and Abraham believed. But God was not satisfied; he wanted a stronger faith. Abraham had to believe that God had some new kind of power to show him, even the power of resurrection. Strong faith is not a **human qualification, but the gift of God.** How often with anxiety we keep on shedding tears, because of fear and unbelief.

Sometimes the fear is the fear of man. Let people say what they want about you. When we began this work of God, many wrote and slandered us, but we made no attempt to defend ourselves, and true to His Word, God never allowed any weapon formed against us to prosper (Isa. 54:17). So do not give way to fear and unbelief. In Phil. 4:6 we are told to be anxious for nothing. How many children of God worry about the house-rent, furniture, or the future. Even if I lack today, one day He will enable me to enjoy all things.

4. **God's fourth covenant was with Moses.** (Deuteronomy 18:15). In fulfilment of that covenant the Lord Jesus Christ is our prophet. As the children of Israel heard the voice of God through Moses, so now every believer can hear the voice of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 3:6-16 we read about hearing His voice three times. We become overcomers by hearing the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever I do otherwise, will be shaken and burned up. I must hear His voice for my personal life, family life and church life. Such a voice makes me an overcomer. "Lord, keep my ears sensitive to Thy voice".

5. **God's fifth covenant was with David.** (2 Samuel 7:12-13). David was shown God's pattern for the House of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is building the true House of God, and by taking part in that House we become overcomers. David vowed in Psalm 132: 4, 5 that he would not rest till he had found a dwelling-place for God.

At first David thought that God wanted him to be a better king. Later he found that God had a higher plan for him.

In 1 Chron. 28:19, the plan for the temple was given to David after he was completely freed from human wisdom. What we call knowledge God calls chaff. On one occasion in

1 Chron. 13, he organized a grand procession, with a military band to bring up the ark of God to Jerusalem. But he did not ask God for His plan. They carried the ark in a new cart which was the wrong way. When they came to the threshing floor God sifted out the chaff. In Numbers 7:9 God commanded that the things of the sanctuary should be borne on the shoulders of the priests.

How many of God's servants are depending upon human cleverness to do God's work and not on God's order. In 1 Chron. 15:11-13 David repents. He confesses that he did not find God's due order at first. We can never change God's plan, or substitute **human wisdom** or zeal or sincerity. Preachers today want to see crowds, and results, but do not want to obey **God's Word.** They will use worldly songs and other means to attract a crowd.

The second time David was brought to the threshing floor, is given in 2 Samuel 24. Pride had come into David's heart, and he was depending on his own strength. He was brought to the threshing floor, 2 Samuel 24:18 which later became the site of the temple as God had foreplanned (2 Chron. 3:1). We are living stones in God's true House (1 Peter 2:5) and must take our share in that House. This does not mean that we think only of meetings, sit in the same seat, have no burden for souls, go to sleep during the message, and then go home. What is my true position in God's House? Overcomers are those who take their share in building God's House, which is the whole Church of God, and not a sect, or a denomination.

6. **God's sixth covenant was with the Lord Jesus Christ.** (Psalm 2:7-8). The nations and the uttermost parts of the earth have been promised to the Lord Jesus Christ as His inheritance. We must claim His possession as His co-workers

(2 Cor. 6:1). He has inheritance in Australia, Canada, America, as well as in India. We are then to claim that inheritance. He has died for all men; but the devil has taken charge. These souls must be delivered. I am here in His Name. I must go in His Name to claim His inheritance for the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **God's seventh covenant is with the believer.** (Hebrews 10:12-17). By the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ sin is gone for ever (Isaiah 43:25). His laws will be written in our hearts. Though a man be illiterate, God can give him knowledge of divine things in spite of his human limitations. I can enjoy heavenly mysteries because of God's covenant with me. Whenever I see the rainbow, I believe afresh in God's covenant and by faith in God's Word, and in His unchanging covenants, God lifts us higher and higher.

Rev. 21:7 promises that the overcomer will inherit all things. God's purpose in helping us to overcome is that we shall be qualified to inherit all things and enjoy fully what God has for us, in the New Creation.

Rev. 4 and 5. These chapters reveal the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenly Church when the Church is perfected. "Come up hither!" the voice said, so that He might reveal to John the things which must be hereafter, the heavenly perfect Church; what we shall see, what we shall be; what shall be our future position; what is going to happen in the end time, and in the life to come.

To understand those heavenly mysteries we must learn to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). Those who walk in the flesh find it difficult to understand, for this is not understood by intellectual understanding.

The throne of our Lord Jesus Christ is the central object

in heaven: Rev. 4:2. He that sat upon it was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone (Rev. 4:3), absolutely transparent, faultless, perfect in purity and holiness; and He wants us to be partakers of that holiness (Hebrews 12:10).

The whole Church consists of those who are redeemed by His Blood out of every kindred, tongue and nation (Rev. 5:8,9).

A Crown (Rev. 4:4) speaks of authority. Adam had been given authority which he lost through disobedience (Genesis 1:26). But the Lord Jesus Christ made us kings and priests and paid a high price to do so (Revelation 1:6).

Those who have not defiled their garments shall be worthy to walk with Him in white raiment (Rev.3:4). In Jude 23, we are exhorted to hate even the garments spotted by the flesh. These are they who have not defiled their garments. We are not to be deceived by worldly attractions. Many believers imitate the people of the world in dress, conversation, habits and haircut. White raiment is given to those who have not defiled their garment. This is illustrated in Gen. 35:2 where Jacob told his family to put away strange gods, and to change their garments. While Jacob was busy with the cattle, his wife and children were imitating the world, wearing worldly garments. Through such things as TV., radio and worldly parties we become defiled.

There was a rainbow round about the throne (Rev. 4:3). The question comes how we weak human beings with so many limitations can come to the throne. If a beggar is told he will be given some food, he will believe it. But if he is told he is going to be a king he will not believe it. We can believe God has forgiven our sins. But how can we overcome and share His throne? The rainbow tells us God's answer, it

is His covenant. Even as God promised the land to Abraham, and though Israel has been stubborn, hard and rebellious, yet God has brought them back to the land from 84 countries, so also will He be true to **His covenant with us.**

There were lightnings, thunderings and voices out of the throne (Rev. 4:5). These speak of judgments. We are to be made partakers with the Lord Jesus Christ in the coming judgments. The overcomers will be made judges (1 Cor. 6:3). The seven Spirits of God speak of the fulness of the Holy Spirit (Rev. 4:5). The sea of glass speaks of multitude of God's people (Rev. 4:6). The four beasts and twenty-four elders are also part of the Church-for in Revelation 5:9 they fell down together and sang: "...thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood."

The Four Beasts:

The four beasts speak of the four great virtues of the Lord Jesus Christ, of which we partake when we come under His Headship.

The lion: The lion is the strongest of beasts (Prov. 30:29,30). It goes straight across a river even though the current is strong. It is never carried away by the current. It will not turn away for anybody or anything. We as believers are often carried away by the current and imitate worldly people. When worldly people wear short dresses, believers also wear short dresses. If worldly people wear long dresses, believers also wear long dresses. Because long hair is now the fashion, long hair is being shipped from India to America! True believers in the Lord Jesus Christ must go straight even if it means going against the current. Do not let the world carry you away. Some follow preachers, others follow fashions.

The Calf is used for ploughing (Matt. 11:28). A weak ox is yoked to a strong ox which carries most of the burden. In the same way if I take His yoke upon me, the Lord Jesus Christ bears my burden.

The man: The Lord Jesus became a Man like us. He allowed Himself to be tempted like us (Heb. 2:17). Once I was coming home hungry and tired, and saw these words on a wayside pulpit, "made like unto his brethren". God spoke to me. If I am hungry, He is hungry, if I am tired, He is tired. I walked home very joyfully and found new strength in that knowledge. Matt. 4;1,2 show Him tempted and hungry. He is willing to bear all my weakness, as Hebrews 4:15 shows, for He is touched with the feeling of my infirmities. So we can come boldly to the throne of grace. "Yes Lord, I have done wrong. I have told a lie. Please forgive me. I am weak." In every sin, in every weakness, come to Him.

The eagle: (Deut. 32:11) The eagle builds a nest in a high place. The young ones are taught to fly by the mother shaking the nest and pushing them out. The little birds fall, but the mother flies underneath them and lifts them up on her wings. This is God's way. He shakes our nest and our plans are broken, to teach us to rest on Him. By this means we can learn to fly very high.

We receive these four characteristics by coming under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Elders:

Rev. 4:10. The elders represent the overcomers-full of praise. The strongest proof of an overcomer is that he is full of worship. If there is no worship there is little growth. We may have good teaching, but if there is no worship there is

no growth. Simple believers often worship the Lord with shining faces. Educated believers with much Bible knowledge, in time of worship start to pray instead of worship. We tell the believers there should be no prayers, no requests, only worship before the breaking of the bread.

Worship is growth. The wise men came with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, though as yet they had no experience of salvation (Matt. 2 : 11). Gold stands for divinity and frankincense stands for resurrection. Myrrh represents suffering. True worship cannot be without experience. In Luke 7 :38, the woman came trembling. She knew she was a sinner, but knew also that He would forgive her. She did not come for healing, but she kissed His feet, "Lord, I know Thou hast forgiven me," her action said. She came repenting and trembling. She knew she was forgiven so she kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment, as an act of worship. This is worship by experience.

In John 12:3 there is a still deeper experience. God's power is manifested in the whole household; first, what He has done for me, and then, what He has done for others in my family.

In Matt. 26:7 the woman poured ointment on His head, not on His feet as in Luke 7:38. This woman was not doing it for herself. She saw He was to die for the whole world, and her action said : "Now I praise Thee for what Thou art doing in every part of the world." By true worship we grow spiritually.

Mysteries are not understood by human wisdom (Rev. 5:3). We must go upon our knees and claim the precious Blood for understanding. Then the mysteries are revealed to us. If

you seek understanding by commentaries and big books only, the true revelation of the mysteries will not become so clear to you. John 1:29 shows us that we must know Him first as the Lamb of God. Mohammedans accept Him as prophet, but not as God's Lamb. By the Lamb and His precious Blood we understand the mysteries.

In John 20 : 17, He said to Mary: "Touch me not". In Matt. 28 : 9 women held Him by the feet. These two events happened the same morning. Why? He had to ascend to Heaven before anyone could touch Him. Why did He ascend? Hebrews 9 : 12 gives the answer. In the Old Testament the high priest could go behind the veil only once a year with blood. Then divine fire would fall upon the blood. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Heavenly High Priest. He has entered once into the Holy place, by His own Blood. Every sin we commit by thought, word or deed, leaves its mark upon the conscience, like sounds on a tape-recorder. When we sin we must claim the precious Blood immediately (Heb.9:14).

In the midst stood a Lamb as it had been slain. No commentary can open the book. Only the slain Lamb. Rev. 5:6,7. The word Lamb is mentioned in the book of Revelation twenty-eight times. This gives a twenty-eight fold meaning of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The seven horns show that He is a King, for the horns mean kingship (Rev. 17:12). He is a Heavenly King with an everlasting Kingdom-1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 19:16, Daniel 2:44;7:14. We are invited to be with Him as kings in that kingdom. The more we are cleansed by the precious Blood, the more clear will be our spiritual sight or understanding.

The seven eyes speak of the great secret of the fulness of the Holy Spirit by identification with the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no fulness without the Cross. The more you are identified with the Cross, the more you are filled. This does not come by prayer or by fasting, but by faith. Believe you are the weakest person on the earth, die to yourself, die to your will. That is fulness. You cannot die by your own efforts. You can commit suicide, but you cannot crucify yourself; someone must nail you there. I cannot crucify myself, I must ask the Lord to take away my desire for power by the power of His Cross; to take away my will, and my plans by the same power. In Colossians 2:9-10, we are told that we are complete in Him. This is real fulness.

Revelation 5:7-10 **shows us that by worshipping we get a deeper** understanding of the work of Christ, and what He has made us. Worship is the big secret of fulness. Many say long prayers, but there is no worship. In Luke 17:15 we read that all the lepers were cleansed, but only one gave thanks, and he received the blessing.

In Rev. 5:11 the angels are standing but the elders are sitting. Angels will serve us in the coming new creation (Hebrews 1:13,14). We shall give commands and they will obey (Isaiah 45:11).

All His riches are for us (Rev. 5:12-14), and we are made partakers of His glory. The four beasts and the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation chapters 6 to 10

These chapters should be read together, as they speak of the same period. In Daniel 9:24,25 the prophet Daniel was told that seventy weeks were to pass. In prophecy

a day is given for a year. See Ezekiel 4 : 6. Six great events were to be accomplished in those 70 weeks. The time was to be divided into three periods.

1. The first division was from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36 : 21-23). In forty-six years Jerusalem and the temple were rebuilt under Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah.

2. The second division was from the completion of Jerusalem to the Cross. This was 62 weeks or 434 days. On that day Christ died according to the prophecy.

3. The third division of one week was to cover the confirmation covenant made by the "prince that shall come," which is Anti-Christ. This period of one week corresponds with the period of Rev. 6 to 10. It is one week, that is seven years.

In the middle of the week, i.e. after $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, Anti-Christ will cause the sacrifices to cease, and as we read more clearly in Matt. 24:15 the abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place. So greatly will he deceive that at the beginning, the Jews will accept Anti-Christ as the Messiah.

The Lamb opens the seals, and as the **first seal** is broken John sees a white horse (Rev. 6 :1-2). The rider on the white horse is not the Lord Jesus Christ. The white horse on which He will ride is seen in Rev. 19:11-16. The Anti-Christ comes trying to deceive people that he is Christ. He has power to conquer in the first period of three-and-a half years and goes about making leagues and covenants with many people. Because of disorder and confusion the world

will need the help of some great and wise person. The world authorities will appoint the Anti-Christ as their leader, and he will become a world dictator.

In the **second seal** the rider on the red horse in Rev. 6:3-4 is given a great sword. This speaks of the many wars, Matt. 24:6-8; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:10. This is the beginning of sorrows, the first part of the tribulation era, when there will be strikes and violence in many countries.

At the **third seal** is revealed a black horse in Rev. 6:5-6 which foretells a great famine for food in many parts of the world. A measure of wheat or three measures of barley were to be sold for the price of man's full wages for a day. But the oil and wine, symbols of man's pleasures, were to be unchanged. Those who can afford will still have their pleasures, eating and drinking while others starve. Eating and drinking for pleasure though there is no food.

In Rev. 6:8 the **fourth seal** revealed the rider on the pale horse which is Death, accompanied by Hell. Power is given to him to destroy a quarter of earth's inhabitants by war, and starvation and by hungry wild animals.

At the **fifth seal,** in Rev.6:9-11, John saw that many who are faithful will be killed. There will be worldwide persecution which goes on till the end of the tribulation (Rev. 10 : 7), till the mystery of God is finished. Many will be born again during the tribulation period (Rev. 7:9,13,14). These are before the throne of God.

In Rev. 6:12-17, at the **sixth seal,** the sun became black, the moon as blood, and the stars of heaven fell to the earth. Compare Matt. 24 : 29. Rather than repent of their sins the people of the earth, great and small, try to escape the judgment

of God. There are kings, great men, rich and proud, some bondmen but mostly the great and rich. Those in wealth and position find it hard to repent.

Rev. 7 :1-14. It is here we read of the sealing of the 144,000 of Israel, which refers to the conversion of the Jews as a nation (Isaiah 66 : 5-8). When Anti-Christ begins to offer the sacrifice of abomination their eyes are opened (Matt. 24:15). Anti-Christ then begins to persecute the Jews. 144,000 is a symbolic number 12,000 of each tribe, 12 is the number of government and foundation. The number speaks of those Jews who have fully repented and overcome.

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9-10).

This great multitude are those who have passed through the great tribulation (v. 14). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. God Himself will dwell among them and they will never again hunger or thirst. The Lamb will feed them and lead them to living fountains of water, and God Himself shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation chapters 8 and 9 tell of the last days of suffering. There is silence in heaven, for the time is very serious (Rev. 8:1). The prayers of those interceding for the protection of God's people during this period are answered.

To seven angels were given seven trumpets in Rev. 8:2. The first angel sounded his trumpet and hail and fire, divine fire, fell upon the earth. The second angel sounded and a burning mountain was cast into the sea. There was judgment on earth and sea. The third angel sounded, and a great star fell on the rivers and fountains of water. This was God's systematic judgment on the earth. The fourth angel sounded, and divine judgment fell on sun, moon and stars (v.12). Men may touch the moon, but they cannot destroy the sun, moon and stars. Only God can do this. The fifth angel sounded, (Rev. 9:1) and God's judgment fell on the whole universe. Even an atomic bomb cannot shake the stars, but God will (Heb. 12:26,27).

God allowed strange creatures to come upon the earth, for judgment (Rev. 9:3). When God wants to intervene in the affairs of man, creatures can be created for the purpose of God at His command. If men refuse God's love and mercy, and go on rejecting the gospel there must be judgment. This is the beginning of hell fire. The creatures had hair like women which is God's judgment on those who, full of lust, have been worshipping women (Rev. 9:7-10). Those creatures had a king over them, Apollyon, the angel of the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11). Though there was judgment men did not repent but became harder and harder.

In Rev. 9:13 the sixth angel sounded and more terrible creatures were sent on the earth, by whom a third part of men were killed. Seven thunders uttered their voices, bringing in the last part of the tribulation, but what the thunders said was so terrible that John was told to seal them up and utter them not. In Rev. 10:7 John was told that when the seventh trumpet

would sound, the mystery of God would be finished. God has a certain number whom He brings right through the tribulation (Rev. 10:9,10). The angel gives John a little book which in his mouth was as sweet as honey, but in his belly it was bitter. There is the sweetness of reward and the bitterness of judgment. The message of the gospel must go to all the nations, Rev. 10: 11.

Revelation chapters 11 to 19. These chapters contain a description of the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of the tribulation period. The Jews as a nation repented at the end of the first part of the tribulation period, and are then bitterly persecuted (Matt. 24:15-22).

Rev. 11:1-2. There was a small remnant in the temple but the court of the temple was to be trodden under foot for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, the second half of the tribulation period.

In Matt. 17:3 two men appear with the Lord Jesus on the Mount, and were talking about His suffering and death. These were Moses and Elijah. Two witnesses (Rev. 11:3) perhaps the same, will come again to warn people of the coming wrath and judgments.

In Rev. 11:6, though they warn men and perform miracles, the people will not repent. The two witnesses prophecy from Jerusalem and it is possible there will be a small remnant in the temple with them.

Then the beast appears out of the bottomless pit (Rev. 11:7). He appears suddenly as one who has come to life again, and the two witnesses are killed by the Anti-Christ in Jerusalem.

Rev. 11:8-10. Everybody rejoices over their dead bodies, but after $3\frac{1}{2}$ days God raises them up, and they ascend

to heaven. The same hour
thousand men are killed.

Rev. 11:11, 16, before the Kingdom of Christ can begin He must judge the Anti-Christ.

The seventh angel sounds, and now all can see that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to reign.

In verse 19, there is a warning of coming judgments, and to the end the Lord gives a chance to men to repent.

Compare Rev. 12:1; Song of Solomon 6:10 and Malachi 4:2. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Sun of righteousness. Here is a woman clothed with the sun; she is fully identified with the Lord Jesus Christ. The moon represents God's prophets. They have no light of their own, but what they receive, they give to the Church (Eph.4:11). God conveys light to the Church through His servants. The moon at the feet of the woman means that it is at her service. Even so God's servants are to serve the Church. Upon her head are 12 stars. Through the ministry of the twelve apostles believers began to understand the Headship of the Lord Jesus (Col. 1:16-18).

The woman in Rev. 12:2 is with child, travailing in birth. There is tribulation and suffering and hardship for those who want to follow the Lord fully. The dragon in verse 3, with seven heads and ten horns is Anti-Christ. In Rev. 17:9 we read of seven mountains, and in verse 12 of ten kingdoms. That speaks of the ten powers of Europe. Jerusalem is built on four mountains. Rome is the only city in the world built on seven mountains. Here is Anti-Christ with his head-quarters at Rome.

Rev. 12:4. The dragon stood before the woman. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ brings forth a man-child, who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron; compare what Rev.

2:26, 27 says of the overcomer. The rod of iron speaks of wrath and judgment. God's mercy and love have been shown, but now from chapter 11 onwards come judgment and wrath. In Rev. 12:5 the man-child is caught up to God and the throne.

Rev. 12:6. Then the woman fled. These are the believers still on the earth, who flee to the wilderness to hide for three and a half years, and there God feeds them.

In Rev. 12:6-9 the Devil comes with three weapons:

1. He deceives (verse 9).

2. He accuses (verse 10).

3. He persecutes (verse 13).

1. He has deceived the whole world with all kinds of wrong teaching (2 Cor. 11:14) coming as an angel of light.

2. He is the accuser of the brethren. Believers will be arrested, will be tried and faced with charges as has happened already through Communists.

3. Because of his persecution, believers will suffer torment, and agony, and be killed as has happened in China, Russia and other places.

We too have three weapons with which to overcome the devil- Rev.12:11.

1. The first is the Blood of the Lamb. As we keep on claiming the precious Blood, sprinkling our conscience constantly, we have boldness in God's presence, and inward cleansing. By faith we have eternal life through the Blood of

Jesus Christ, just as we have physical life through the blood in our veins. If there is no blood, there is no life. Compare Heb. 10:22; Heb. 9:14 and John 6:51-58. Those who eat the Bread of life and drink His Blood shall live for ever. By faith we drink His Blood. By faith we claim the sprinkling from an evil conscience. By His precious Blood we are protected from the enemy and his wiles.

2. The second is the word of our testimony. We cannot defeat the devil by argument. At every opportunity we should give our testimony to what God has done for us.

3. The third weapon is we should not love our lives unto death. By a bold stand we are able to defeat the enemy. In Rev. 12:13-16, the believers are being persecuted and the overcomers are caught up. Daniel 7:7-9, 15-18 are being fulfilled in these verses. The saints possess the kingdom, even the overcomers. Anti-Christ goes to make war with the woman, i.e. the believers (Rev. 12:17).

Now the kingdom of Anti-Christ spreads very rapidly Rev. 13:1, 2. By the wound upon his head the deceiver will tell people that he was dead and is now alive again. He has a mouth that speaks great things and blasphemies, and continues for three-and-a-half years. All the earth will be worshipping the Anti-Christ, but believers will be revived through persecution and suffering (vs. 7-9). As the Holy spirit causes the believers to worship Christ, so the false prophet will cause men to worship the Anti-Christ (vs. 11-15). He will do miracles. Here is Satan's Trinity : Anti-Christ, false prophet, and the image.

The false prophet also decrees that no man will be able to buy or sell unless he has the mark of the beast on his forehead, or the number of his name, 666. In the days of

rationing we have to have a card. In India some have a mark on their forehead to show whom they worship. In those coming days men will have to have the mark of the beast, or his name or the number of his name in order to buy or sell. That will mean they have agreed to worship the beast (vs.16-18).

In Rev. 14:1-3 we read of 144,000 with the Lamb on Mount Sion; these are the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb. This is not the same 144,000 as in Revelation 7 who were converted Jews. This is again a symbolic number, 12 times 12,000. Twelve speaks of a strong foundation and divine order and government. This represents a company of overcomers, who have come on a strong foundation.

We must note the following:

1) They are not defiled with women. 2) They are not overcome by lust. 3) They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. 4) They are the firstfruits to God. In Lev. 23:10 we read of the sheaf of the firstfruits. In 1 Cor. 15:20 Christ is called the firstfruits of them that slept; in v.23 "every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

In Rev.14:6 an angel flying in the midst of heaven has the everlasting gospel to preach. Many were worshipping idols worldwide, but God in his mercy gave them another warning of judgment; of the fall of Babylon the great city (v.8) and of the punishment for those who worship the beast and his image (vs. 9,10). Certainly it would be better to suffer and die than to worship the beast. The time had come for God's wrath to be poured out (vs. 14-20). Details are given in chapter 16 onwards. God's message to us at this time is given in 2 Thess. 2:2-10.

In Rev. 17, God's judgment falls on Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Roman religious system which has defiled all the higher powers (vs.2-4) and has slain believers (v.6). Verses 12 and 13 speak of the confusion in the last days. The rulers of earth give their power to the Anti-Christ and he takes over. Peoples, and multitudes, nations and tongues are defiled by the whore which reigns over the kings of the earth (v.18).

In Rev. 18:4 the last chance is given, a voice from heaven calls: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." That judgment took place in one hour, and the great city was thrown down (vs. 8, 21). By her were the nations deceived and in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and of all that were slain upon the earth (v.24).

Then comes the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7) and He that is called 'Faithful and True' comes from an open heaven on a white horse (v.11).

Chapter 20

The Devil is seized and bound for a thousand years (Rev. 20:2, 3). Those who had been slain for their testimony of Jesus, and those who did not take the mark of the beast on their foreheads or in their hands have part in the first resurrection and live and reign with Christ a thousand years (v.4).

At the end of the thousand years Satan is loosed (vs.7, 8) and goes out to deceive the nations again, and to gather them together to battle. But fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. Then the devil is judged and cast

into the lake of fire (v.10), and the dead are raised to stand before the great white throne. Those whose names are not written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire (vs. 11-15).

Chapters 21, 22

The first, that is the present heaven and earth, pass away in Rev. 21:1 and a new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, are prepared by God (2 Pet. 3:13). The New Jerusalem, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband comes down from God out of heaven (v.2). Then God declares: "Behold, I make all things new" (v.5). A beautiful picture of the bride, the Lamb's wife is given in Rev. 21:9-27. In that wonderful paradise, the tree of life is restored, and there is no more curse. The throne of God, and of the Lamb is in it and His servants shall serve Him, and they shall see His face and His Name shall be in their foreheads, Rev. 22:1-4. They have right to the tree of life and to enter in through the gates into the city (v. 14). Eating the fruit of the tree of life enables them to enjoy all things of the New Creation. Verses 18 and 19 contain final warnings against adding to or taking away from the words of the prophecy of this book and the book closes with the marvellous promise: **"Surely I come quickly: Amen"**; and the writer replies: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus", and adds: **"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen"** (Rev. 22:20, 21).